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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

26317

7590

02/21/2002

AMSTEAD INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED
205 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
44TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60601

EXAMINER

JULES, FRANTZ F

ART UNIT

CLASS-SUBCLASS

3617

213-075000

DATE MAILED: 02/21/2002

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/657,297	09/07/2000	Ronald E. Barker	6217	1701

TITLE OF INVENTION: RAILCAR DRAFT GEAR ASSEMBLY AND SYSTEM

TOTAL CLAIMS	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
27	nonprovisional	NO	\$1280	\$0	\$1280	05/21/2002

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above. If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

B. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/657,297

Applicant(s)

RONALD E BARKER

Examiner

Art Unit

Frantz F. Jules

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 1/24/02.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 4-28.
3. The drawings filed on 07 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
(a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
(b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
(c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.	<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

- Art Unit: 3617

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Whinter, and Blattner disclose various types of draft gear assembly comprising a yoke, a coupler follower positioned between the back wall of the yoke and the front end of the draft gear assembly, at least one front resilient member positioned between the coupler follower and the back wall of the yoke, at least one back resilient member positioned between the yoke back wall and the back end of the draft gear assembly, a rear follower positioned rearward of the back resilient member, a draft sill having front stops, the coupler follower having a pair of stop contact surfaces for contact with the draft sill font stops. Kaufhold et al disclose various types of draft gear assembly comprising a yoke, at least one front resilient member positioned between the coupler follower and the back wall of the yoke, a draft sill having front stops, the coupler follower having a pair of stop contact surfaces for contact with the draft sill front stops. Willison et al disclose a draft gear assembly comprising a yoke which occupy the entire draft sill, a draft sill having front stops, the coupler follower having a pair of stop contact surfaces for contact with the draft sill front stops. However, none of the references of record suggests a draft gear assembly comprising a yoke, a coupler follower positioned between the back wall of the yoke and the front end of the draft gear assembly, at least one front resilient member positioned between the coupler follower and the back wall of the yoke, at least one back resilient member positioned between the yoke back wall and the back end of the draft gear assembly, a rear follower positioned rearward of the back resilient member, a draft sill having front stops, the coupler follower having a pair of stop contact surfaces for contact with the draft sill font stops, wherein the coupler includes a

coupler bearing surface between the stop contact surfaces and at least part of coupler bearing surface being forward of the stop contact surfaces of the coupler follower in the manner defined in the instant claims 1, 17. Also, none of the references of record suggests a draft gear assembly comprising a yoke, a coupler follower positioned between the back wall of the yoke and the front end of the draft gear assembly, at least one front resilient member positioned between the coupler follower and the back wall of the yoke, at least one back resilient member positioned between the yoke back wall and the back end of the draft gear assembly, a rear follower positioned rearward of the back resilient member, a draft sill having front stops, the coupler follower having a pair of stop contact surfaces for contact with the draft sill front stops, wherein the coupler follower has generally vertical indented forward facing stop surfaces, whereby a center rod extend through the rear follower, the back resilient member and the back wall of the yoke in the manner defined in the instant claims 9, 21, and 25. Therefore, claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-20, 22-24, 26-28, depending therefrom, are considered to be allowable.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantz F. Jules whose telephone number is (703) 308-8780. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph S. Morano can be reached on (703) 308-0230. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

Art Unit: 3617

305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final
communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-
1113.

Frantz F. Jules
Examiner
Art Unit 3617

FFJ

February 13, 2002



S. JOSEPH MORANO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600